

The *a. s. Japan*, with mails, &c., from Calcutta, left Singapore on 10th March, and may be expected here on or about the 23rd March.

The *D. D. R. s. a. a. Daphne* left Singapore on the 22nd March, at 8 a.m., and may be expected here on or about the 28th March.

The *Glas. Line steamship Glenferrie*, from London, left Singapore on March 22nd, and may be expected here at or about the 23rd March.

The *C. G. S. a. a. Magano*, from Bombay, left Singapore on the 22nd March, and may be expected here on or about the 29th March.

The *P. & O. extra steamer Venetia* left Singapore on the 22nd March, and may be expected here on or about the 29th March.

Since our last leaving Hankow on her last trip, the river steamer *Wahon* met with a serious accident. One of her connecting rods broke, and the engine going at full-speed at the time considerable damage was caused. The crank shaft, although not broken, was badly shaken, and the pin of the connecting rod was fractured, and other parts of the engine bent and strained. In 1863 a very similar accident happened to a Cunard liner crossing the Atlantic, when her connecting rod broke, wrecking the engine, and causing the loss of the vessel. The *Wahon's* accident is one of a very unusual character, and it is fortunate that so little damage has been done.—*Shanghai Mercury.*

ORDER OF GENERAL SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL—THE SUNDAY IN LENT.

Matinge—Venite, Macfarlane, Padua, and Gault, 251; Psalm, 100; Gloria, 251; Deum and Jubilate, Bunnett 6; E. Anthem, 'To thee O God' (Mendelssohn); Litaney; Hymn, 251; Offertory, 200.

Evening—Psalm, 100; Gloria, 251; Creed, 251; Magnificat, 251; Sanctus, 251; Benedict 6; E. Anthem, 'To God on High' (Mendelssohn); Hymns, 108 & 409, part 1; Voluntary, Offertory (D Minor) Baptiste.

This San Francisco correspondent of the *Japan Mail* writes: If the newspapers are to be believed a serious effort is about to be made to develop the gold quartz mines of the Sierrita Nevada. The mines are owned by intelligent Chinese gentlemen who were here to see about cranking machinery. They kept their business a pretty close secret, but it became known to mining circles and they represented the mine as a good field for pay for an expensive plant. Some stock was taken in the company by Chinese merchants here. It is now announced that about 1000 stamps will come from the well-known firm of manufacturers of

The German man-of-war *Sophie* arrived this afternoon and saluted the port.

Information has been received of the report that the shares of the new Panjium Company have been allotted in London.

MESSE'S Siemssen & Co. inform us that the D.D.E. s.s. *Daphne* left Singapore for this port at 8 a.m. today.

MESSES Jardine, Matheson and Co. inform us that the s.s. *Olenagarry*, from London, left Singapore this morning for this port.

mining machinery, Messrs. Frangeland Chalmers of Chicago. The mine for which the mill is ordered is in the Province of Shan-sung, only a few miles from the coast. It was worked several centuries ago, but was abandoned in consequence of the inability of the Chinese to keep the water out. I had the pleasure, two or three years ago, of conversing with the American who is now in charge. He described the geological formation in which the vein is found as being identical with that of Mount Davidson, which contains the Comstock lode. It would be equally abundant in the States of Nevada, California, and Australia as the great gold producer of the world.

MESSRS Carlowit & Co. inform us that the N. G. I. steamer *Disagio*, from Bor' bay, left Singapore this morning for this port, and is due here on or about 29th inst.

MR R. Baird, Agent in Hongkong of the Straits Insurance Company, informs us that he has received a telegram from the Head Office intimating that a bonus of 10% to contributors for 1889 has been declared by the Directors.

DEPART SHIPMENT FOR SEAMEN.—On Sunday

morning, between 9 and 10.30 o'clock, the steam launch carrying the Boileu flag will call alongside any vessel hoisting command C, to convey men ashore to H. M. service at St. Peter's Seamen's Church, returning about 12.30.

THE Imperieuse returned last night from Tyntam Bay, where the naval manoeuvres have been in progress for some days. While making for her anchorage she fouled the German flagship *Leipzig*, demasting slightly the latter's fore-mast and smashing

'FRAGRANT' WATERS' MURMUR.
That the recent discussion in the Finance Committee regarding the work of the

Hudson's Surprise Party continue to strengthen their claims on public favour, as the entertainment improves every evening. Last night's programme—both as regards variety and quality was good enough to satisfy the demands of the most exacting audience. Mr Hudson 'The French conductor' scored one of the most pronounced of the many successes he has achieved; and the other members of the company seemed to improve even the excellent impression

made by their previous performances. Miss Baber was highly successful in the recitative and polonaise from 'Mignon,' and the applause which followed this, as well as her other solos, was most enthusiastic.

A number of people in Shanghai, foreigners as well as natives, are suffering from influenza.

The exportation of rice from Wuhu to other ports has been prohibited for the present by the Viceroy Liang, at the instance of the Taotai of that place, who has represented to him that the rice trade is the life blood of the country.

That such work, after the system has been inaugurated in easily done by the clerical staff.

That it may not be generally known the

pend in the district owing to the large quantities exported.

THE seizure of rifles at Tanjong Pagar has led to the capture of four Frenchmen, Armand Denrol, Leon Grocques, Hubin, and Roussier, and a warrant, charged with importing arms for a *r. Ghartier*, contrary to Sec. 17 & 18, Indian Act 31 of 1890.

COMMANDER COOPER, U.S.N., reported his arrival in the Pacific Mail steamer City of Detroit, on January 10, 1891, from the U.S.S. *Seaturtle*, in place of Commander McGowan, who was sent home sick. He

Harbour Department possesses a small but excellent indoor staff, mostly old, experienced and faithful servants of the Colony, as well as two promising young men in the capacity of Boating officers, on whom devolve very important functions afloat.

That the improvement in the Boating Office department was owing to Captain Rumsey, and indeed the present Harbour Master has effected several much-needed reforms in his department of which miscellaneous firms are fully sensible. The late Captain Rumsey, as everyone knew old Cairns was a good man and true, and an expression of regret for the worse violation that has clouded the even-

left for Chemulpo, where the *Sutara* now is.

We (Singapore Press) are enabled to say that the reason actually assigned for the *Etrogoff's* stay at Singapore is that she is awaiting orders from the Turkish naval authorities which have not yet reached her, without which she cannot proceed; and further, that as being a trading ship, no time limit has been placed on her voyage. The *Penang Gazette* tells the following story:—Thuyann has got abroad among the Malays that the reason of the Turkish stay at Singapore is that the Turkish Fort is the great respect and fear which England is believed to entertain for Turkey, of his life would have come more acceptably from the Colonial Treasurer than the education which was given.

That the idea of a young landman fulfilling all the duties of a Harbour Master and officer, who must be thoroughly acquainted with nautical affairs, is refreshingly unusual, and which really understand such things.

That the grayer some men become the less discretion they seem to be able to acquire or exercise.

That it is not least among many men, who lack this discretion, command general respect for their other sterling qualities.

That if the Observatory is to be conducted on meteorological lines, by all means put

whose man-of-war is now in Singapore. ridiculous as the idea is, the story is certainly a large number of the natives who have great fears now is that the *Evangelist* should call at this port so that they might have a look at her. Admiral Osman Pasha might take note of this.

INFLUENZA continues to be very prevalent in Singapore and the subordinate staff in the Government offices are suffering dreadfully. In the Municipal Engineer's office more than half the office and work staff are down with the complaint, and the Engineer has the greatest difficulty in securing for the executive board, or in representing it, because it is difficult to

Master, working under his Chief or a Committee (as at Home); but if it is to be run by an astronomer on the lines of learned and scientific Societies at Home, that is quite another matter. I think we can go trusting in Providence for storm-warnings and chronometer rates. That I have already hinted - some one has blundered in upsetting the Maonic display of the astrolabe-laying by the Duke of Edinburgh.

That His Excellency the Administrator has blundered in a third way - in his conception of his English Representative - really is, as the saying is, a very serious matter. It is not the Duke and in this case the Queen's Representative of course

get men for painting and other work. Most of the printing offices are short handed, and there are no fewer than 52 men absent in the Singapore and Straits Printing Office (Mr. Sear's). The dispatch of current work is, of course much inconvenienced. Printing also, has been affected, and the sickness is especially prevalent among the Chinese shop-keepers in Beach Street—in some of the stores half the men are ill. It is also bad among the Government clerks—eight medical certificates were in the other day.

the public will in such a matter. That even although the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh had not been very near to the top of their tree, especially, consideration for the Masonic body here ought to have saved His Excellency from such a blunder as has been made. That the Continental Freemasonry originally condemned by the Pope is a very different plant indeed from the pure organisation known as Freemasonry in England and her Colonies.

That the 'raft' was, naturally, greatly disappointed that the Masonic Lodge was to be omitted in the ceremony of laying the first stone.

That some cynical people are of opinion that 'silent obsequies and funeral trains' over the many dollars and 'lost' but only 'gone before' would be a more fitting ceremony than any other.

That I hear a District Grand Lodge meeting is to be called here, in honour of the Royal Gales visit.

That the proceeds and the price of pork might not naturally have any connection except among a queer people like the Chinese, but placing a small tax on pigs seems to be one of the native modes adopted by the Gilds of collecting subscriptions in Hongkong.

That the price of provisions is regulated by custom in this way, and in China proper the officials often take advantage of the arrangement until an open riot takes place.

That as long as the Chinese are satisfied (and I have consulted with many who possess the infinitesimal temporary increase) no violent outrage is perpetrated upon the people.

That it would be well to know whether any one of the days during the Duke's visit is to be observed as a holiday, as unanimity even in this matter is highly desirable.

That the illuminations promise to equal or excel all former efforts.

That the English Club, at present a symphony in pen and ink, and a bad enough, affords a splendid background for a magnificent glit.

That perhaps on the whole the first rather than the second of April would have been the more appropriate day for pyrotechnics.

That the residents had almost forgotten the fact that a new Post Office had been decided upon, but few residents would dream of placing the Post Office building on the site of the North Borneo.

That if the rejection of the proposal to remove the building from the Post Office to the tower is correct, of course a Post Office building in that quarter of the city is impossible; but I think such matters have already been decided by the Legislative Council and the public before anything is decided.

That 'Common Sense' writes strongly about the Post Office officials, and the tendency to turn over the awful 'straw' incurred by ending one's salary.

That I am quite ready to admit that Hongkong is not the Garden of Eden, but before the full, and that most of us have to earn our livelihood literally by the sweat of our brow; but it is still open to question whether public servants persevere more freely than private residents.

That the Post Office General and his years in second command, have done a great deal of honest, well-paid work for the Colony, only the necessity for crying 'over this fact does not appear.

That opinions seem still to vacillate between the 'old' and the 'new' fitting material for Her Majesty's statue, although I hear that the powers have decided on bronze.

That perhaps the difficulty might be solved by not inappropriately reproducing the worthy and venerable Head of the Empire in porcelain.

That this material is durable, impervious to climate, and would appeal to the Chinese.

That the canopy at least will be a great ornament to the city and will worthily enclose the statue.

That Naval Manoeuvres in all parts of the world seem equally fruitful of ill-luck to H. B. M. Navy.

That the grounding of the *Albatross* and the sinking up of several gunboats is rather too suggestive of what might take place in actual warfare.

That the Chamber of Commerce are apparently quite right in agitating for a complete and careful survey of the Coast of China.

That the Chamber of Commerce seems to be experienced in finding occupation for the Assistant Harbour-Master, he might with great advantage turn his attention to dredging for unknown dangers in the immediate neighbourhood.

That the Chamber of Commerce meetings excite strangely little interest in proved by the absence of members and the almost complete absence of matter.

That one might suppose that a mercantile community during the course of a year would produce some ideas worthy of consideration at the annual gatherings.

That a few comments on the somewhat barren Report of the Committee seems to be considered a sufficient menu for one year.

That the veteran Chairman of many years now sits on his laurels, may be the 'rest' spoken of at the meeting follow his labours in full measure.

That in the less active sphere of a Committee man his matured experience will still be available.

That the new Chairman is probably the best man in the Room for the post.

That the published correspondence regarding the attempted Telegraph Convention has further confirmed the public estimate of Sir John Walsham's diplomatic ability.

That the Report of the Education Committee now has caused the Government to be in a framing regulation for the conduct of any particular branch of trade, and the necessity that exists for obtaining the opinion of those engaged in such trade.

That the President of the Sanitary Board did not show much strength or force in his remarks about the unredressed grievances of a Kowloon resident.

That another member of the Board offered to live in a cave of the mountains rather than stop short-coming.

That though there business seems dead, the shareholders are not equally dejected, as I understand they met this afternoon to push forward once more the formation of a proper Stock Exchange.

That I hear the Acting Committee are to interview the Hon. the Administrator on Monday on the subject of legislation.

BROWNIE.

A. & S. HIGHLANDERS' ATHLETIC SPORTS.

Community: Major Tottum, Captain Davidson, Lieut. Jackson, Lieut. Williams, Lieut. Renny.

Sub-Committee: Colour-Sergeant Boyd, Sergeant Henderson, Sergt. Calder, Pioneer Sergt. Phillips, Cook-Sergt. Thomson.

Those sports took place on the Recreation ground yesterday and to-day. The principal event took place this afternoon, when there was a large attendance of spectators.

The events were, as a rule, well-contested. Perhaps the most interesting item of the programme from the spectators' point of view were the dancing competitions, which were witnessed with much interest. The mile race (open) was somewhat easily won by Gunda Singh, who has a pretty long record of triumphs, but the finish would have been at least one exciting had not Pte. Gorman (who was supposed to be the Regiment's best man) tripped when the course was about three quarters finished. The company try of war, which had to be

finished this afternoon by B and E companies, was very severely contested and E. Company had a difficult task to beat their opponents. Messrs G. O. Anderson, D. H. Mackintosh and J. Molloy were judges of the Highland dancing.

The band of the Regiment played in the afternoon.

At the close of the sports, the prizes were given away by Mrs. Brownie.

The following are the details:—

1.—100 Yds. Race. 1. Drummer Steel 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

2.—TWO-MILE RACE. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

3.—FOOTBALL MATCH. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

4.—FOOTBALL MATCH. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

5.—LONG JUMP. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

6.—BOYS' RACE (220 yards). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

7.—HIGH JUMP. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

8.—FOOTBALL MATCH. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

9.—MILE RACE (Regimental). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

10.—BAND RACE (220 yds.). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

11.—HALF-MILE RACE (Regimental). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

12.—MARCHING ACTING PIPERS. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

13.—CORPORAL'S RACE (220 Yards). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

14.—SERGEANT'S RACE (220 Yards). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

15.—VETERAN'S RACE (Over 12 years service). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

16.—PUTTING THE SHOT. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

17.—HURDLE RACE (120 yards). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

18.—HOP, STEP AND JUMP. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

19.—HALF-MILE RACE (Open). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

20.—TWO-MILE RACE (Open). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

21.—TOSSEING THE CANON. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

22.—HIGHLAND FLING. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

23.—TUG-OF-WAR (Open). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

24.—COMPANY REELS. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

25.—MILE RACE (Open). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

26.—PIPE-PLAYING COMPETITION (Open). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

27.—PIPE-PLAYING COMPETITION (Open). 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

28.—SQUAD DANCE. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

29.—SQUAD DANCE. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

30.—SQUAD DANCE. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

31.—SQUAD DANCE. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

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60.—SQUAD DANCE. 1. Pte. Murdoch 2. Pte. Murdoch 3. Pte. Murdoch

THE ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of the CHINA MAIL.

SIR,—Will you kindly acknowledge in your column the following additional names and subscriptions received by me for the funds of the Alice Memorial Hospital, viz:—

Messrs Gump & Co. \$ 25
W. T. Wain, Esq. 5
Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Co. 50

Master ... 250
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank ... 250
A. Parson ... 250

H. L. Downes, Esq. ... 25
C. M. Hammett, Esq. ... 25
J. M. Armstrong, Esq. ... 25

W. M. W. ... 10
Messrs. Naudin & Co. ... 10
Messrs. John H. Hancock, Esq. ... 10

Victor H. Deacon, Esq. ... 10
R. David, Esq. ... 10
E. T. J. ... 5

Yours faithfully,
E. W. MAITLAND,
Hon. Treasurer, Alice Memorial Hospital.

A. G. GORDON & CO. LIMITED.

A meeting of this Company was held this afternoon. Mr. A. G. Gordon, General Manager, presided, and there were also present:—Mr. L. Downes, Mr. A. Duer, Mr. Taylor, Mr. A. Macintosh, and Mr. W. S. Simpson, Secretary.

The Chairman said there was very little to add to the report. The result was not so satisfactory as was anticipated. That was chiefly owing to the sudden rise in the value of the stock market. It was impossible to forecast that prospect this year, but so far they were good, and he hoped to be able to present a better report next year. He proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. Downes seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. Macintosh proposed that Messrs. H. Holmes and W. F. McIntosh be elected members of the Consulting Committee.

Mr. Taylor seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. Macintosh proposed the re-election of Messrs. Downes and A. O. Gordon as auditors.

Mr. W. S. Simpson seconded and the motion was carried.

MR. CHADWICK ON THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE COLONY.

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Mr. Francis—We discharge into the drain by the side of it.

Mr. Edie—I do not see what a man can do when there is no public drain.

Mr. Francis—The proper place is the side of the road. The road should not be left ungrazed and unmade.

The Chairman—I do not think the facts are exactly as represented to you. I have heard with reference to Mr. McCallum.

Mr. Francis—I can't guarantee the facts, but I have told you what is in the letter I received. Mr. McCallum says he applied to the Secretary of the Board two months ago complaining of the nuisance, and he would like to know what is to be done in the matter. He was also in communication with the Sanitary Surveyor and the Surveyor General, and he says in this letter that he has been obliged to the Secretary of the Board for the strict notice he has preserved on the whole subject. I am told also that Dr. Cantle complains of the nuisance.

The Chairman—Some case of this sort came before me in another form and is under consideration.

Mr. Francis—I do not question the action of the Surveyor General's Department with reference to the road. We have nothing to do with that. It is from the sanitary point of view I am concerned. The Board has seen some papers on the subject, and I think they must refer to this case. I cannot say for certain, however, that it is the same case.

Mr. Francis—Perhaps the Sanitary Surveyor's Department will look into the matter and see what is the actual state of affairs and what can be done.

The President—So far as the Public Works Department is concerned I may say that everything that can be done in the matter will be done. The difficulty is to know what is the right thing to do.

The Board then adjourned.

OPEN NULLAHS RECOMMENDED.

MR. CHADWICK ON THE DRAINAGE OF THE COLONY.

MR. CHADWICK, in the course of his report on the Surveyor General's report, says:—

8.—In the regulation of nullahs, generally the following rules should be observed:—

(a). Before land is sold, the positions of the water-courses, which will be required to convey storm and sub-soil water through the land, should be determined. These water-courses will, almost invariably, follow the general direction of natural ravines or nullahs. The land to be occupied by these water-courses should be retained in the possession of the Government, and the Government should be responsible for a breadth of at least ten feet, should be reserved from sale. It is inconvenient that any conduit, conveying the effluent from one tenement, should traverse another, especially when the land is sold, and the owner, under the title of Government.

(b). Storm-water channels should be open, and should on no account receive sewage. The practice of converting natural water-courses into sewers, by covering them in has already undergone a long and extensive trial, which has fully established its grave defects. In many cases, however, it will be convenient to construct a sewer, following the general line of a storm-water channel, by embedding the sewer-pipes within the water-courses, the invert, or otherwise. But in this case the sewer must be absolutely independent of the channel, and designed as a sewer, for sewage. As I shall have to discuss the design of sewers fully, when reporting on the general drainage scheme, I shall not now pursue this question any further at present.

(c). When a sewer runs under a storm-water channel it is, as a general rule, advisable to admit into the sewer, as the Commissioners recommend, sub-soil water, and to connect it to the sewer by means of a vertical pipe, which has been mentioned, and even the dry weather flow of the nullah, so as to dilute sewage and augment the scour. When this is the case, the storm-water channel will only come into use during heavy rain, for a considerable part of the time it will be dry, and it will be necessary to provide a means of access to the sewer, for the purpose of cleaning it, and for the purpose of drainage-water and gas-supply.

(d). The regulation of nullahs and their conversion into storm-water channels is a subject which has not yet been fully considered. The channel should follow the general line of the natural nullah, in as direct a line as possible; and, in every case, with easy curves. The upper surface of the channel should be level with the natural level of the original nullah, the true bed, or solid ground, under the loose boulders which encumber it. This done, the channel will form an efficient outlet for lateral sub-soil drainage, and will be below the level of the ground surface. If it is desired to admit land-water into a sewer beneath the invert of the storm-water channel, the mouths of the drains should deliver, in the open air, about the invert; and their effluent should then be conducted to the sewer through suitable openings. It is not prudent to connect land-drains direct to a sewer, even with the interposition of a trap. There is no certainty that a land drain will run continually. It may dry up; and then the water in the trap will evaporate, leaving the sewer in direct connection with the sewer. One of the objects of land-drains, in addition to the removal of water, is the admission of air. If, however, the channel is constructed, in accordance with the principles laid down, sub-soil drainage will be completely effected.

(e). The invert of the nullah, for structural reasons, must be practically water-tight, the side-wall, on the other hand, as previous as possible, especially near their bases; in other words, numerous weep-holes should be provided.

(f). In some cases, perhaps, storm-water channels may have to be covered. Then, the total exclusion of sewage becomes even more necessary than in the case of open channels. Such covered storm-water channels must be regarded as a sewer, and must be constructed as such, and must be subject to the same regulations as sewers.

In another report Mr. Chadwick says:—As a general rule, I think that nullah regulation should be done by the Surveyor General in conjunction with the Surveyor. However, the regulation of any nullah involves a question of drainage if should

be referred to the Water and Drainage Department, so that arrangements may be made for combining it with the general system.

The question as to which Department should carry out the work may be decided by the Heads of Departments concerned in each several case.

SUBSOIL DRAINAGE.

REPORT BY MR. CHADWICK AND MR. CHADWICK, in the course of his report on the Surveyor General's recommendations, says:—

2.—The soil of the Western District is undoubtedly moist, and many land-springs make their appearance, both at the natural surface of the ground and in places where it has been cut for the formation of house sites or roads. Of these, the most conspicuous are: one under the western return-wall of the grounds of the London Mission, which runs out opposite the Richmond Road near the junction of the lower Richmond Road there is a more or less continuous out-crop of water.

3.—In short, the whole district is freely pervaded by water, arising from the hill-side above. The natural dampness of the soil has been aggravated in many cases by the embankment of house-sites, and in some cases, perhaps, by the formation of roads. The natural out-crops of the soil, which should be freely provided, are, in some cases, blocked, by being upon large masses of earth, sustained by retaining walls, which, being insufficiently provided with weep-holes or drains, act, with the compact earth behind them, as dams, to raise the sub-soil water above its natural level, and retain it under and around the dwelling.

4.—I am unable to agree with the statement, made by the Commissioners, that sub-soil drainage is in general in the Western District alone. Similar conditions obtain, in a greater or lesser degree, throughout the whole of the lower slopes of the hills forming the Island.

5.—A building-site, formed, wholly or partially, by excavation into the side of a hill, requires, in every case, a careful sub-soil drainage, to render it suitable for occupation. At the same time, a sub-soil drainage should be laid, not less than three feet below the surface, to intercept the moisture percolating downwards from the slopes of the hill above. A second drain should be made at the back of the retaining wall, which should be freely provided with weep-holes, to prevent accumulation of water behind it. If any spring appears on the surface, drains should be constructed, before the filling is commenced, to provide for the free escape of its water. In some cases, it is desirable to form rough drains over the surface to be filled in, especially in any natural depressions.

6.—The greater part of the district in question has been sold, and the Government cannot, I presume, enter and drain private property.

Mr. Chadwick further writes:—Recommendation III. in the Sanitary Board's report, which should be freely provided, covered over with mud and ashes, to a thickness of at least three inches, or by concrete or chunam. All new surfaces must be so covered by first June.

I see no objection to newly cut surfaces being covered with earth and gravel, and to paths or yards being covered with mud and ashes. I have already stated, I think, the gravest objection to suspending all work on first June and surfacing it temporarily. It will be far better to push on the work briskly to completion.

PUBLIC LAUNDRIES.

The following is the report of the Committee of the Sanitary Board on public laundries:—

The Committee appointed on the 8th December last to consider the question of erecting public laundries, has the honour to submit a preliminary report dealing with the question of sites only.

It is recommended that there be three separate sites of wash-houses, namely:—

A.—One at the foot of Mount Davis, between the Kowloon and the Victoria Harbour, and the Pokfulam Road.

B.—One at the Wandai Gap below the Bowen Road.

C.—One near Tai Hang village at Causeway Bay, or, if land there is not available, one at the junction of the Causeway and the Wong-tai-chung village.

It is further recommended that A & C sites be at least three times larger than the B site.

If these sites are approved by the Board it is recommended that the Government be requested to sanction the purchase of the sites. The Committee will be then able to report at an early date on the accommodation required by the washermen in the City, and also on the style of buildings and fittings most suitable for them in which to carry on their occupation in a proper manner.

(Sd.)
N. G. MITCHELL-JONES,
N. G. RIDE,
Hongkong, 13th March, 1890.

THE DECLINE OF THE TEA TRADE.

NATIVE OPINION.

The depression in the tea trade reached the lowest depth yet known in 1889, when the losses to Chinese tea merchants amounted to over £5,000,000. Such a depression in the tea trade is a serious matter, and it is not surprising that the Chinese tea merchants have not suffered yet to any great extent by the losses of the tea season, as the latter had not borrowed to any great extent from them, and therefore underwent heavy losses without involving the tea merchants. The tea merchants, while congratulating themselves on having come out of it so well last year, are this year very chary of making advances for the tea season. By 15th March, 1890, they had borrowed about £1,000,000, and on 15th March, 1890, so far as we are aware, they have advanced next to nothing.

The tea season is likely to continue less than usual, partly owing to this cause and partly to the fact that many Chinese firms, warned by the number of failures last year, have ceased to do business in such an uncertain article as tea has lately proved itself.

At Hankow the principal Chinese tea firm is the old established 'Te'fa Shen An, next to which in the magnitude of the business done none can be named. The tea season has been a very bad one for them, and they have been forced to borrow to the extent of over £1,000,000, intending to carry on the campaign this season with all greater energy than the preceding one. A new firm, the How Shing Shing has started. The remaining old native houses seem to be in a measure paralysed by the bad results of last year's operations.

Forty-two new Canton firms, and two new Shanai ones have started, with perhaps others; and in the tea-growing districts of Yangtze and the Ching-shan hills, the tea growers have already made their arrangements for sending tea to the market before the tea season has begun. The tea season, however, the business with these two districts will be as brisk as ever, though the tea-growing districts of Cheong-ching, T'ung-shan and

THE PROS AND CONS OF EARTH-OUTTING.

Dr. Cantle's note, in defence of the Surveyor General's recommendation with regard to earth-cutting, is as follows:—

The second recommendation, that the period of earth-cutting be regulated, was intended to apply to the colony generally. The Commissioners reported very strongly upon this and took the standpoint that human lives were more precious than dollars, and that the land-owners themselves should be made to adhere to the humane law. The only reason why the period cannot be regulated can only be from the standpoint of money, and, as yet, with even the Prison Reclamation scheme in view, I see no reason to budge from the belief that the enforcement of the recommendation would be a public benefit.

As a corollary to the confuting this Recommendation of the Commissioners, The Hon. The Surveyor General suggests that a thorough investigation of material poison should be made. The Hon. The Surveyor General.

That germ has not yet been pronounced upon, although all the Universities of Southern Europe have been closely engaged therewith, and in India the Government for

